

The Daily Tar Heel

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Two years after Hurricane Katrina:
a Daily Tar Heel special report, part 3 of 5
Thursday: How race has affected recovery

A new tour of duty

Resilient driver finds his calling

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
SENIOR WRITER

DES ALLEMANS, La. — Hassan Awad has always thought of himself as an ambassador for New Orleans. For years that meant driving a taxi and giving out-of-towners tours of the French Quarter and the city's other historic landmarks.

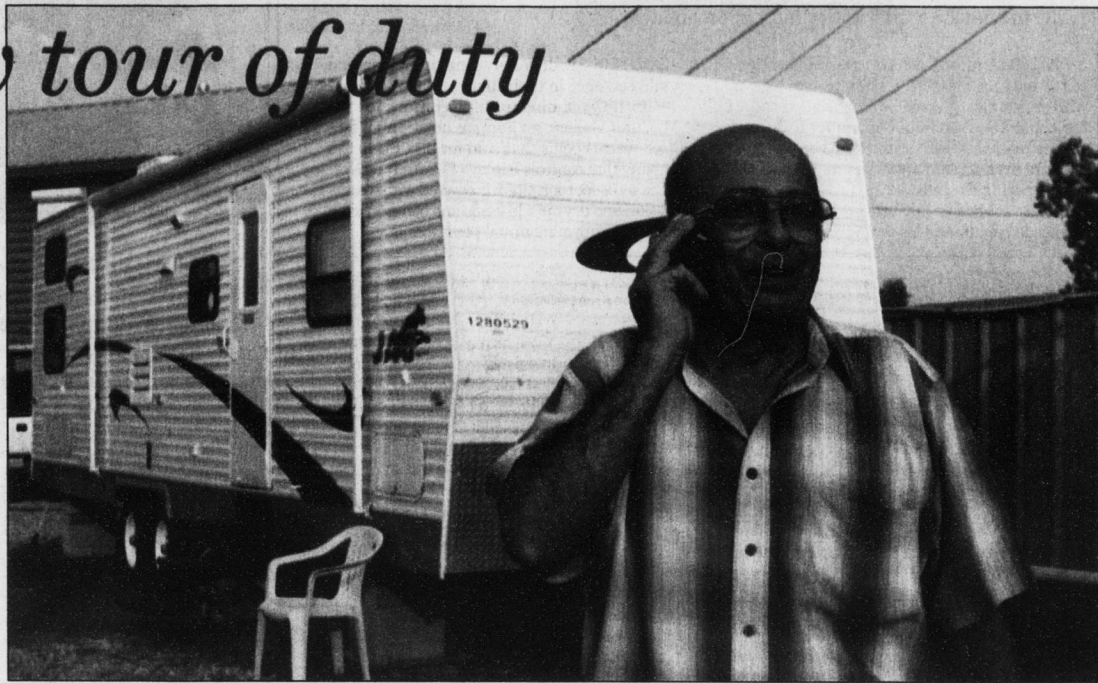
Now the points of interest have shifted from monuments

to levee breaks, and Hassan finds himself giving a vastly different tour.

For \$50 a person, he'll bring into focus miles of stagnant debris, abandoned schools and other once-vibrant signs of life, all still dormant two years after the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history ravaged New Orleans.

Hassan doesn't just show you where the Industrial Canal levee was breached or where water lines remain. The owner of Sahara Trans Inc. wags his finger, raises his voice and beats his dashboard, telling you who is at fault, what damage was caused and how it could've been prevented.

"It is our people is the ones who caused all these problems," he says of local



Hassan Awad, standing in front of his FEMA trailer, schedules a time to pick up a customer. A longtime taxi driver, he now gives "Katrina tours." DTH PHOTOS/BETH ELY

politicians. His lyrical accent rises and falls with his anger at the scene outside the windshield.

But Hassan isn't just a spirited guide. He's a survivor.

Thirty minutes into the tour, after diagramming Hurricane Katrina's path using a Sharpie and an evacuation map, Hassan rounds a corner of a St. Bernard Parish neighborhood and says, "You see that FEMA trailer there? That's the same exact trailer I live in."

An Egyptian immigrant who has called New Orleans home for 22 years, Hassan has given about 160 tours in

the last year. While many have turned their backs on the destruction, isolating themselves in the French Quarter and other districts where the flooding was less intense, Hassan finds himself in the heart of an ongoing disaster every time he hosts a new group. "It hurts," he admits reluctantly. "It is not easy. Sometimes I can't take it. I cry."

Not making ends meet

Though the people he drives

SEE HASSAN, PAGE 8



Hassan stops along a tour to talk to a contractor clearing a lawn in a St. Bernard Parish residence. Hassan often stops to praise rebuilding efforts.

Green efforts top off talks

Carolina North to trustees next

BY KATE SULLIVAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

In a concerted effort to keep up with the University's sustainability efforts, Carolina North officials addressed environmentally conscious measures at a community meeting Tuesday.

The meeting marks the final community presentation before officials present the plans to UNC's Board of Trustees in late September.

Since the last presentation to the trustees in July, Jack Evans, executive director of the project, said there have been only minor refinements to the land-use plan.

Carolina North is UNC's proposed multiuse satellite campus slated to be constructed on a 900-acre tract of land, where Horace Williams Airport now sits. The complex will include research facilities, a transportation system and housing.

Waste and rainwater management are important issues to consider for a project the size of Carolina North, said John d'Epagnier of RK&K Engineers, who is involved in planning the satellite campus.

"We've taken to heart the University's stance that this will be a sustainable project," he said.

Water plans include reusing undrinkable water to irrigate fields, flush toilets and cool buildings. Officials also have proposed on-site wastewater treatment facilities.

Developers and engineers are talking with Orange Water and Sewer Authority and UNC's Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering about working in tandem to complete these green projects.

Because the complex will include labs, which are huge energy consumers, planners have had to look at different energy options.

Despite energy specialists' research into free resources, such as solar and wind energy, powering the entire development by these means is not entirely feasible, said Jerry Schuett of Affiliated Engineers Inc.

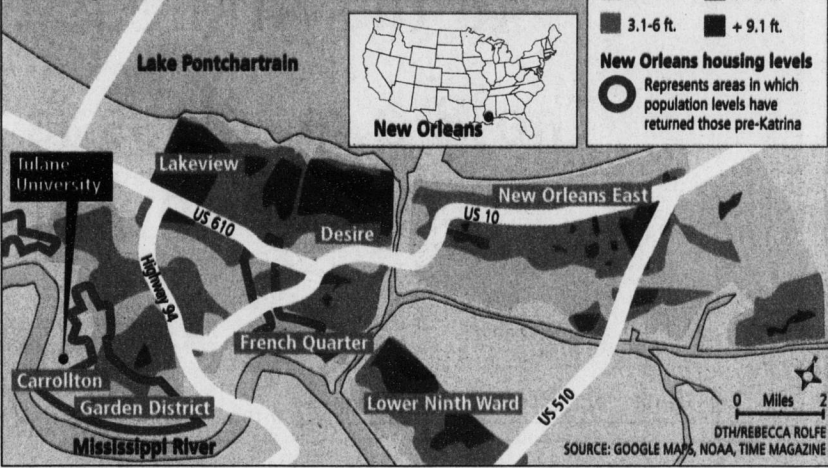
"The area we're in isn't conducive to capturing wind energy," he said.

Instead, a more viable option being proposed is the creation of a central energy plant that can cut down on energy wasted in trans-

SEE MEETING, PAGE 8

Rebuilding in New Orleans

In New Orleans, only the Garden District has fully returned the same population levels since flooding from weakened levees after Hurricane Katrina passed on Aug. 29, 2005. Areas housing historically poorer populations, such as the Lower Ninth Ward, are barren.



New Orleans flooding levels
(After Katrina storm surge swamped the levees, Aug. 2005)

0.1-3 ft. 6.1-9 ft.
3.1-6 ft. +9.1 ft.

New Orleans housing levels
Represents areas in which population levels have returned those pre-Katrina

Big Easy faces difficult future

Residents eye flooding risks

BY ERIC JOHNSON
SENIOR WRITER

NEW ORLEANS — In the city's Lower Ninth Ward, just blocks from the repaired and reinforced wall of the Industrial Canal levee, volunteers are cutting grass.

In a landscape reduced to concrete foundations and a

grid pattern of crumbling streets, they're clearing away overgrown brush on empty lots because they don't know what else to do.

"It's got to be done," said a volunteer named Kevin, who was working with the Common Ground Collective. "But it'd be nice to be in a better situation after two years than just mowing people's lawns."

Kevin didn't give a last name but said he dropped out of culinary school in California to come help in New Orleans. He is among an eclectic handful of young volunteers from

SEE NOLA, PAGE 8

Spanish children's books fulfill dual-language goals

BY ANDY KENNEY
STAFF WRITER

Students in the kindergarten classes at Carrboro Elementary School walked away from their first day of school Monday with some interesting reading material.

"La Oruga Muy Hambrienta" might not ring a bell, but perhaps "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" does. Each student received both an English and Spanish edition of Eric Carle's children's book, which has sold 12 million copies since 1969.

"If you get presented with a Spanish book that you're not fluent enough to read, it opens up a whole

new world," said parent Kirsten Barker, who first brought the idea to the school last spring.

Barker has two students at Carrboro Elementary and is on the school-improvement team.

The book program is part of the school's continuing efforts to raise literacy test scores and is typical of the school's bilingual culture, where the automated phone service helps visitors in both English and Spanish. Most signs in the school are posted in both languages.

Principal Emily Bivins said about one-third of the school's population speaks Spanish at home.

Data from Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools indicate that at the start of the last school year, 96 of the 532 students were Hispanic.

One of the school's most notable efforts is its 227-student dual-language program, where a mix of native Spanish- and English-speaking children learn in both languages.

The program, which just added a fifth-grade component, has equal amounts of teaching done in Spanish and English.

"They're learning in the language, not just learning the language," said Shawn Williams, a kindergarten-level dual-language teacher.

The school's focus on literacy and bilingualism has another driving force. In past years the school has not met certain requirements mandated by No Child Left Behind.

"We're held extremely accountable," Bivins said.

Bivins said that part of the reason for the school's problems is that the tests do not take into account a child's native language. In fact, they set benchmarks for minority groups, and if they are not met, the school can be considered "failing."

Eighty-nine percent of Carrboro

SEE BOOKS, PAGE 8

In September, 2006			
CHCCS elementary school	Total Hispanic students	Total enrollment	Percent Hispanic
Carrboro	96	532	18%
Ephesus	70	438	16%
Estes Hills	41	503	8%
Frank Porter Graham	85	543	16%
Glenwood	18	450	4%
McDougle	65	586	11%
Scroggs	108	708	15%
Raskis	33	642	5%
Seawell	50	551	9%

announcement

WE'RE HIRING

The DTH is accepting applications for new staff. Come to our interest meeting at 4 p.m. Friday in Union 3411 for more information. Applications are available in Union 2409 or at www.dailytarheel.com.

state | page 5

CAN I SEE SOME ID?

The state seeks to comply with new, controversial federal measures tightening security for issuing driver's licenses.



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WOMEN'S OPEN

Alumni Sara Anundsen and Jenna Long received a wild-card bid to the U.S. Women's Open, making them the first from UNC's women's tennis team.

this day in history

AUG. 29, 1979 ...

Student Body President J.B. Kelly requests rent rebates for students living in overcrowded double rooms, saying the University should compensate students.

weather

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